EXHIBIT A

Librarians' Index to the Internet

A Background Report for the Library of California Board
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The Librarians' Index to the Internet (LII) is a searchable, evaluated, and annotated subject directory to high-quality Web resources that has been created by volunteer librarian indexers from throughout California, working under the direction of LII Manager Carole Leita and two part-time editors. The Index, which currently includes over 6,000 resources, is designed to be used by both librarians and end-users ("By Librarians, for Everyone!" is the Index slogan) as a tool for quickly and efficiently locating authoritative, reliable information on the Web. The goal of the Librarians' Index is to improve access to serious and significant information on the Internet by creating and maintaining an index to Internet sites selected, evaluated, and indexed by professional librarians from throughout California.

While the LII database is considerably smaller than the commercial subject directories like Yahoo, it is also much "cleaner" (fewer dead or erroneous links), contains more substantive resources, has no commercial content, and provides "value-added" in the form of the annotations. The Index currently receives over a million hits per month and is linked to by over 7600 Web sites worldwide.

The LII began in 1990 as reference librarian Carole Leita's Gopher bookmark file. It migrated to the Berkeley Public Library's Web server in 1993 as the Berkeley Public Library Index to the Internet. In 1997, the Index again migrated, this time to the UC Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE, and was renamed the Librarians' Index to the Internet. In the same year, the Index received support, as part of the InFoPeople Project, from the Library Services and Technology Act. With the migration to the Berkeley SunSITE and the grant support, the Index was enhanced in a number of ways. "Modified Library of Congress" subject headings were assigned to the records; a search engine (SWISH-Enhanced) capability was added; the first group of volunteer librarian indexers was recruited and trained.

There are currently 95 active librarian indexers. Although the majority are from public libraries, review of the indexer roster reveals that there are indexers from school, academic, and special libraries, and from the ranks of independent information professionals. The indexers identify resources to add to the Index in a variety of ways. Very often, they find resources in the course of answering reference questions. They also regularly review a variety of online and print current awareness services, and many subscribe to specialized electronic

discussion lists. Some are subject experts by vocation or avocation and actively search for resources in their area of specialty.   Once an indexer identifies a resource with potential for the LII, the indexer checks to make sure the resource is not already in the Index, and then fills in an online form. The indexers' entries are reviewed by two part-time editors, who verify the information, proofread and edit the annotation, and review the subject headings. Carole Leita, the LII Manager, reviews all the new entries every week, and selects the twenty best to be featured in "New This Week," a (free) subscription-based current awareness service that is sent via e-mail to more than 6,000 subscribers in 53 countries. The LII Manager also prepares a monthly online indexers' newsletter and individually mentors and encourages the indexers. The average indexer spends 2 hours per week working on the LII. At an average salary of $20 per hour, the value of the volunteer time involved in this project is $197,600 per year.

Indexer training consists of a one-day, hands-on workshop conducted by the LII Manager. An indexer's manual and other resource materials are maintained online, and are constantly updated. The selection criteria used by the indexers are also available online at http://lii.org/search/file/pubcriteria. Although the Index has in the past had a public library orientation, and a California orientation, the database is broad enough to appeal to all types of libraries all over the world. A good analogy for the Index is that it is the Web equivalent of a good general reference collection.

A collection of quotes from sites that have reviewed the LII or that link to it is available at http://lii.org/search/file/quotes. Here is a small sampling:
- "The LII is a well-organized, selective, and continually updated collection maintained by a large number of indexers in California, and may be thought of as 'the thinking person's Yahoo.'" – University at Albany Libraries
- "Highly useful index for public library users. All of the listings at this site are annotated, evaluated, and searchable." – Fort Collins (CO) Public Library
- "Great source for reviewed resources on a very broad range of subjects. Extremely useful for finding high quality research tools and resources. Smaller in scope than the other general tools, but superior to most in the quailty of the resources it covers." – Lane Memorial Library, Hampton (NH).
- "A great starting point for research." – Bergen County Cooperative Library System (NJ).
- "Fantastic resource … Search or browse this huge subject index of Internet reference materials. Includes links to several Internet Reference Desks. Topics range from the Arts to Women and cover both academic and general interest subjects." – Mansfield University Library (PA).
- "If you need to do a more selective search than Yahoo provides, use the Librarian's Index to the Internet." – Central Washington University
- "This selective web directory is well known for the quality of its resources." – University of Texas
- "An amazingly large collection of links to all the library information servers and catalogs on the Internet. Also has sections on library schools, library

organizations, vendors, cataloging, library jobs, CD-ROMs, Dewey guides and more." – San Francisco Unified School District

The Librarians' Index was the subject of a chapter in an ALA Editions book, <u>The Amazing Internet Challenge.</u> As part of the research for that chapter, California users of the Index were asked to describe how they use it. Here are some typical responses:

- "There is not a day that goes by that I do not -- for one reason or another -- have an opportunity to access and use the many fine features of the Index. Specifically, I use it as a focal point for training both patrons and staff on how to effectively manage their time and use of the Internet."*- Norm Hutcherson, Internet Librarian, Kern County Library*

- "As the Automated Services trainer at OCPL, I am an avid user and fan of LII. When any of our branches have gone on-line with Internet access, I have gone out and recommended that they make the LII their homepage for all staff workstations. ... In all my Intro. to the Internet training which I am conducting right now, I stress how this directory was started by librarians who realized that they needed to take their library skills and apply some order to the WWW so that they & library patrons could better utilize what was our "there". It is also an excellent example when explaining the difference between Search Engines & Directories. I also recommend to all our library staff that they go in weekly and print out the list of "What's New" just like they peruse the new reference books their library may be getting." -- *Teri Garza, OCPL Automated Services Trainer*

- "I use the Index at least once a day, five days a week. I used it very successfully yesterday- an 18 year old had promised his 8 year old brother they would get pictures of dinosaurs off the internet. They used Yahoo and found no pictures. After a half hour or so, they requested help. I immediately took them to the Librarians Index. I told them these had been evaluated as useful sites, and it says immediately IF there are pictures or not. The first site listed under the subject "dinosaurs" led us to wonderful pictures of the 3 dinosaurs he had chosen, and we printed them out in color for the 8 year old. They were very happy, and so were we!"A second case was a teen who had to find articles against abortion for a paper she was writing. The teacher had said they HAD to use 1) one book 2) one magazine article and 3) at least one document or page from the Internet. I showed the girl how to browse the subject list. She clicked on abortion - and up came 2 major sites, one with very "pro-choice" articles and one totally against abortion. She chose a few topics in the anti-abortion site and printed them out. The Librarians Index has really been useful to us! Oh- and every week (the students are Still trickling in with this assignment) we show fourth graders the California mission sites in the Librarians Index! Thank you!" -- *Jill Stockinger, Branch Head, Perris Branch Library, Riverside County Library System (now with Sacramento PL)*

- "The site is critical for two reasons. The first is that it is an excellent resource. It is easy to use, well maintained, and contains the "right stuff" for the audiences that I target (public and school librarians and teachers). The second reason is that I know from experience most librarians do not have the time, ability, nor the inclination to develop a resource such as this. It is important for librarians to have access to sites such as the Librarians' Index to the Internet so that they do not waste their time searching for good sites. They can straight to the resources there and use them, or refer users to them. There is no need to reinvent the wheel, it is already up and rolling." *-- Linda Woods Hyman, Pacific Bell Education First, Dept. of Educational Technology, San Diego State University*

The UC Berkeley Library continues to provide free hosting for the Librarians' Index. Grant funds have paid for technical enhancements to improve response time and searching capabilities. The SWISH-Enhanced search engine, for example, has been customized for the LII. The LII Manager recently hired a search engine consultant to make further recommendations. In order to provide for greater technical security in the event of power failure, earthquake, or other disaster in the Berkeley area, the LII will be mirrored on the InFoPeople server in Cerritos (southern California).

Two special projects for the LII this year are co-branding and the conversion of the database to MARC record format. Co-branding allows an individual library to host LII Web pages within a template that retains the library's main navigation links, logo graphic, and background and text colors. Co-branding is an attractive option because it allows the local library to retain its identity while providing the LII content. Libraries find that this can be persuasive in convincing staff to give up the maintenance of individual, locally-created lists of Web sites in favor of participation in the LII. Libraries currently involved in co-branding the LII are:
- Inyo County Library
- Los Angeles Public Library
- Marin County Library
- Newport Beach Public Library
- Riverside Public Library
Co-branding is free to participating California libraries.

The conversion of the LII database to MARC format is the first step in a plan to offer the LII database in downloadable format for integration into local online library catalogs.   A part-time cataloger has begun the work of bringing the LII subject headings into compliance with Library of Congress headings.

The LII remains under the general oversight of the InFoPeople Project, but the growth of the Index, the development of co-branding, and increasing numbers of policy-related questions have prompted the formation of an editorial board. The board includes the LII Manager, InFoPeople Coordinator, Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE Manager, and State Library Technology Coordinator, along with

representatives from the co-branding libraries, the indexers, and an end-user (an InFoPeople Project community partner).

CURRENT ANNUAL BUDGET: To maintain the current level of operation, including technical enhancements to keep up with developments in search engines, etc., and to move forward with co-branding and MARC conversion, the total budget would be $215,000 annually. This would include:

LII Manager	$60,000 plus 25% benefits*	$75,000
2 editors	20 hrs./wk. @ $25/hr.	$52,000
Programmer	10 hrs/wk @ $70/hr.	$36,400
Indexer trainer and support		$10,000
Operational expenses		$10,000
Technical enhancements		$31,600

BUDGET TO CONTINUE LII OCTOBER 1, 2000 - JUNE 30, 2001 (9 MONTHS)

LII Manager	$60,000 plus 25% benefits*		$56,250
2 editors	20 hrs./wk. @ $25/hr.		$39,000
Programmer	10 hrs/wk @ $70/hr.		$27,300
Indexer trainer and support			$10,000
Operational expenses			$10,000
Technical enhancements			$31,600
Administrative Cost		up to	$17,415
TOTAL			$191,565